

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-13 are pending.

Claims 1-4 and 6-13 stand rejected

Claim 5 is objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 11 are independent claims.

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 11-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by, or alternatively under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimizu (USP no. 5, 739, 882). Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakao (USP no. 6, 486, 932) in view of Shimizu. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nokao, Shimizu and further in view of Wu (USP no. 6, 322, 861).

Applicant, through his attorney, thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5 and has amended independent claims 1 and 11 to recite the subject matter recited in claim 4 from which claim 5 depends.

Applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 11 are in a condition indicated to be in allowable form.

For the remaining claims, these claims depend from independent claims 1 and 11 and are also allowable by virtue of their dependency upon an allowable base claim.

With regard to the rejection(s) of the claims as being anticipated or rendered unpatentable over the cited reference, applicant submits that for the amendments made to the claims, which are consistent with the indication of allowable subject matter, the reason for the rejection(s) is no longer applicable.

Applicant submits that the rejection(s) of the claims have been overcome and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. Entry of this amendment and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 26, 2009

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